

REMARKS

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claims 11 to 20 were rejected as being indefinite. Claim 11 has been amended to change the limitation "said groove surface" referred to by the Examiner to read "said first groove surface", thereby rendering the claim definite. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §112 with respect to Claim 11, and with respect to Claims 12 through 20 which depend from Claim 11.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 to 4 and 9 to 10 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,590,936 to Reuter. The Examiner asserts that the Reuter reference teaches a seat body 481.

In fact, the Reuter reference teaches a piston 481. The seat body of Reuter is a separate component designated by the reference number 482. The piston 481 of Reuter has the circumferential groove 457 formed in it, not the seat body 482. More specifically the seat body 482 of Reuter does not teach or suggest "a groove formed circumferentially in an outer surface of said valve seat body, said groove defining a substantially axially extending first groove surface, ... and a substantially resilient seal slidably mounted against said first groove surface" as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of Claim 1 and the claims which depend directly or indirectly therefrom based on the Reuter reference.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,873 to LeVey et al.; and Claims 1 - 5, and 7 - 8 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,762,103 to Gregoire. The LeVey reference and the Gregoire reference both teach check valves, and *not* a valve seat assembly for a control valve of a brake system as recited in Claim 1. Each of the check valve of the LeVey reference and the check valve of the Gregoire reference is a complete valve in itself, and is thus distinguished from the valve seat assembly for a control valve of a vehicle brake system

recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, the LeVey reference does not disclose a seal that is slidably mounted against the groove surface as defined in Claim 1. The LeVey reference distinguishes itself from valves with sliding seals. See Col. 1, Lines 24 to 29:

"... in the prior art, damping action can be dependent on the lip seal seating against the face of the plunger consistently. This action can be prone to gathering lubricants, debris and moisture caught in the "sandwiching" action. Moreover, a linear action must occur to move the lip seal from a sealed position to an unsealed position." (emphasis added)

See also Col 3, Line 41 to Col. 4, Line 9 explaining how the O-rings move radially outwardly from the opening 70:

"... the pressure in first internal passageway 62 wil[l] increase, urging first O-ring 72, which is ordinarily positioned against opening 70 in first circular seal channel 26 by the action of toroidal walls 22, away from opening 70" (emphasis added).

Finally, see Col. 4, Lines 43:

"Moreover, the minimal movement of O-rings 72, 76 allows for internal passageways 50, 62 to remain clear by eliminating any "sandwiching" effect during operation." (emphasis added)

Similarly, the Gregoire reference also teaches the use of o-rings that do not slide, contrary to the limitations of Claim 1. As explained in the abstract of the Gregoire reference, "Inlet pressure forces the o-ring to "tilt" off of the larger diameter groove by pivoting on the lower diameter groove edge." The Examiner asserts that "while the normal mode of operation of the seal is a tilting movement, the seal is capable of sliding". The Examiner did not specify where this alleged teaching is located within the Gregoire reference. Applicants have reviewed the Gregoire reference, and the only locations where there are descriptions of the operation of valve all clearly state the seal tilts, and are silent with respect to the potential for sliding, which would lead one to conclude that tilting is

the only mode of operation, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner (see, in the Gregoire reference: the TITLE; Col. 1, Lines 56 to 65; Col. 2, Lines 57 to 60; and Col. 2, Line 67 through Col. 3, Line 8) .

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1 - 5, and 7 - 8 based on the LeVey et al. and Gregoire references.

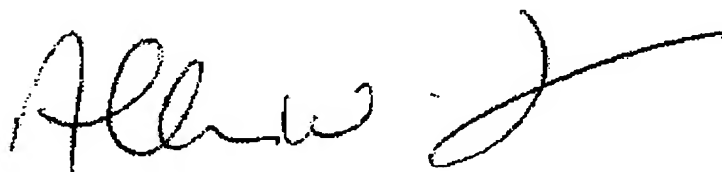
CONCLUDING REMARKS

For the above mentioned reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of record. In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 11-15 and 17 to 20 would be allowable if the § 112 rejection is overcome, and that Claims 21 to 25, 27 to 30, and 34 were allowed. While Applicants agree that these claims are allowable, Applicants do not acquiesce to any implication that the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter puts forth the only reasons for allowability of these claims.

Any fees due in connection with this Amendment should be charged to Deposit Account No. 13-0005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen W. Inks', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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